

**Comments submitted 12 01 11 RE: SGEIS and regs**

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I am a resident of Dryden NY, a DRAC (Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition) member, and Executive Director of the CLWN (Cayuga Lake Watershed Network). The CLWN will be submitting comments. These are my own.

Guidelines and regulations are the product of their authors, and are focused around their goals.

An energy consulting company wrote the SGEIS; thus the SGEIS is focused on the goal of permitting gas drilling and fracking. The draft regulations support this goal.

As a result, our comments have been constrained by the rules of the game to respond in terms of the requirements, categories and definitions imposed on us by the gas industry.

Thus we find ourselves quibbling with the Devil over how many hundred or thousand feet a gas well pad may be allowed from a home; a school; a creek; a lake; a water well; a municipal water supply; a wetland.

These numbers are false, artificial, and arbitrary. The protections are illusory. They merely slow the widespread, catastrophic environmental degradation that would overwhelm our land, water, air and communities were gas drilling and fracking permitted here – or anywhere.

To take just one category of potential destruction – that of our drinking water:

If we want to protect water supplies, we must protect the entire watersheds of the streams, creeks, rivers that flow to the intake for the water supply.

A watershed is the entire land area drained by a stream, creek, river.

For example, thirty-six major creeks and hundreds of short straight creeks make up the sub-watersheds that drain the 870-square mile Cayuga Lake watershed.

The lake itself is a water supply via the Bolton Point plant. Two well known creeks that drain to Cayuga are local water supplies - Fall Creek for Cornell University; Six Mile Creek for the City of Ithaca. In Tompkins County alone, these surface water sources serve 91,000 people.

To effectively protect a lake or any other water body used as a drinking water source, all its tributary creeks need to be protected all the way upstream to their sources and across their entire drainage areas (watersheds).

It is well beyond laughable – it is deeply tragic – for the energy industry to be allowed by our government to impose its false and cynical measures of environmental protection on us, via these bogus proposed guidelines and regulations.

I call on the DEC to reject the SGEIS and draft regulations, and ban gas drilling and fracking across New York State.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Hilary Lambert